

New Bolton Center Switches To Digital Radiography

KENNETT SQUARE (Chest-er Co.) — Penn's George D. Widener Hospital for Large Animals at New Bolton Center became the first hospital (human or animal) in the U.S. to use a portable digital radiography system with a 14x17 digital sensor panel.

The new equipment, installed in September, enables radiologists to radiograph skulls, necks, thoracic, and abdominal areas of horses and other large animals. The previously installed 9x11 inch sensor panel permits digital radiographs of limbs or other small areas.

"This new digital sensor panel allows us to capture a large radiographic image in seconds," said Dr. Alexia McKnight, lecturer in radiology at New Bolton Center. "If the image isn't positioned correctly, we can quickly repeat it. With film we had to wait for the developed image which took time and often meant that the animal had to be re-sedated if a view needed to be repeated."

McKnight explains that digital radiography provides more detailed images than traditional films. There is improved contrast and the information is easier to

interpret. This is because the software allows manipulating the raw data to bring into view more diagnostic information.

"We can see subtle bony lesions much more clearly on digital radiographs," said Dr. McKnight. "Also, subtle fractures are visible. They don't show up on film, and we used to use xerography, which required a significantly higher exposure. The digital system is much more efficient for us and better for the patients because we can perform our study much faster and with shorter sedation time. The ability

to accurately measure angles and distances on the images has also been a wonderful bonus of the digital system. It also enhances our referral capabilities because of the amount of detail we can capture through this technology."

The system provides other efficiencies. Technicians no longer have to develop film and work with chemicals. The images are stored on a Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS) that is the size of a washing machine, so storage space needs are less. The system is also backed up daily to an off-site

center in California.

The digital images can be retrieved quickly on computers throughout the hospital, enabling clinicians to view them in their offices. McKnight, the other radiologists, and the clinicians can review the images on special high resolution grayscale monitors that are quite large. The images can be enlarged and the radiologist can zoom in on an area. Because of the incredible detail and digital archiving, the system makes it much easier for teaching students who are rotating through large animal radiology.

USDA Launches Beginning Farmer, Rancher Pilot Loan Program In Pa.

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Richard Pallman, state executive director for USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Pennsylvania, unveiled the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Land Contract Guarantee Pilot Program.

The program will help determine whether guarantees on land contracts facilitate the transfer of agricultural property

to beginning farmers and ranchers.

"With an increasing number of producers approaching retirement age, America must continue to invest in beginning farmers and ranchers to ensure adequate food and fiber supplies for the future," said Pallman. "The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Land Contract Pilot Program gives USDA the opportunity to see if

guarantees on land contracts are a viable alternative in the effort to assist beginning producers in purchasing land."

The 2002 Farm Bill requires the creation of the Pilot Program. In addition to Pennsylvania, USDA is implementing the pilot program in Indiana, North Dakota, Oregon, Wisconsin and Iowa during fiscal years 2003-2007. Every year, funding will be available to each of the six

pilot states to provide up to five land contract guarantees.

"Beginning producers can face a number of challenges such as adverse weather or market conditions that can have devastating effects, especially in the early years of operations," said Pallman. "This important program provides beginning farmers and ranchers with a safety net so they can remain on the land and continue building their businesses."

The Pilot Program provides the seller of the land a 10-year "prompt payment" guarantee of the sale to the beginning farmer or rancher (buyer). In the event that the buyer does not pay an annual installment due on the contract, or pays only part of an installment, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will provide the scheduled payment or the unpaid portion to the seller through an escrow agent. The guarantee is limited to the total monetary amount of two installments. The guarantee will also cover the amount of two years' worth of unpaid taxes and insurance.

The following are some of the eligibility requirements prospective buyers must meet:

- The buyer must be a beginning farmer or rancher and must be the owner of a family farm after the contract is completed.
- The buyer must have participated in the business operations of a farm or ranch for at least three years.
- The buyer must have an acceptable credit history demonstrated by satisfactory debt repayment.

• The buyer must be unable to obtain sufficient credit elsewhere without a guarantee to finance actual needs at reasonable rates and terms.

The purchase price of the farm or ranch cannot exceed \$500,000 or its current market value as determined by FSA. The interest rate charged to the buyer for the 10-year term of the guarantee cannot exceed FSA's direct farm ownership loan interest rate in effect at the time the guarantee is issued, plus three percentage points. Contract payments must be amortized for a minimum of 20 years. During the term of the guarantee, balloon payments are prohibited and payments on the contract must be of equal amounts.

FSA offers direct and guaranteed loans to individual and entity producers' use to buy new farms, equipment, feed and other farming essentials. Special loan programs exist for beginning farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged persons and rural youth. Each year, FSA makes thousands of loans to farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain private, commercial credit.

You can obtain more information about this and other FSA programs by contacting the FSA office in one of the fifty USDA Service Centers serving Pennsylvania producers. Offices are listed in the U.S. Government section of the Blue Pages in the telephone directory under Agriculture or visit FSA on the World Wide Web at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Ohio State Ag Program One Of Country's Best, Says U.S. News

COLUMBUS, Ohio — One of Ohio State University's departments has been recognized as one of the nation's top undergraduate agricultural engineering programs.

The Department of Food, Agricultural, and Biological Engineering — within the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences — made the top 10 of colleges surveyed for top undergraduate engineering programs that specialize in agriculture. The results were among the college rankings highlighted in the 2004 U.S. News and World Report "America's Best Colleges."

"I congratulate the Department of Food, Agricultural, and Biological Engineering in its ranking as one of the best programs in the country," said Bobby Moser, dean of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. "Our college has set a goal of being among the best in the nation. This accomplishment shows significant movement toward that goal."

It is the first time that a department from the college has been among U.S. News and

World Report's academic rankings.

The survey ranked engineering college programs accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. The rankings were based solely on the judgments of deans and senior faculty who rated each program they were familiar with on a scale from one (marginal) to five (distinguished). Participants were asked to survey top universities offering special engineering programs — agriculture being one of them.

K.C. Ting, chairman of the Department of Food, Agricultural, and Biological Engineering, said the accomplishment would help give the program and others like it across the nation some recognition.

"I think this accomplishes several things. One, the U.S. News ranking system is a widely read publication and this is a very nice vehicle for publicity. Two, the news helps boost agricultural engineering as a recognized field. Three, the rankings show to everyone that we are one of the top programs in the nation, and it's really nice to be a part of that."

Out of the top 11-ranked undergraduate agricultural engineering programs listed in the publication, five were from Big Ten universities. In addition to Ohio State, Purdue University, University of Illinois, Pennsylvania State University, and Michigan State University also made the list. There are 55 universities in the nation that offer agricultural engineering undergraduate programs; about nine similar programs exist in Canada.

Ohio State's Department of Food, Agricultural, and Biological Engineering, which has ties to the College of Engineering, provides students curriculum options in soil and water, machinery systems, ecological and bio-environmental programs, bio-systems; pre-vet and pre-med and food-related industries.

The Department of Agricultural Engineering came into existence in 1914. The department changed its name to Food, Agricultural, and Biological Engineering in 1996.

4.9¢ Long Distance Service Call JDS Telecom 1-888-315-1179

4.9¢ per minute, first minute, every minute, in your state, and in all 48 states. 6 second billing

<p>Avitrol</p> <p>For The Control Of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starlings • Pigeons • Sparrows • Crows <p>5 lbs. for \$295.00 +8.00 S&H</p>	<p>Make Those Rodent Tracks END!</p> <p>Ditrac</p> <p>Tracking Powder*</p> <p>Kills Rats & Mice 6 lb. Bucket</p> <p>\$39.95 + \$8.00 S&H Rat & Mouse Bait Available</p>	<p>Starlicide</p> <p>For the Control of Starlings & Blackbirds</p> <p>Less Diseases Saves Feed</p> <p>33 Lb. Pail \$89.00</p>
<p>These Pesticides have restricted use. MUST HAVE Current Applicator's License.</p>		
<p>Blain Supply RR1, Box 837, Blain, PA 17006 717-536-3861 or 717-536-3933</p>		

OAK TREE STOVES

- Heat with wood or coal and avoid expensive fuels
- Efficiently heat your home, domestic hot water, barn, or shop — all with one stove
- Heavy Duty design
- Wide range of sizes (up to 2.5 million BTU ratings)
- Slide-out ash pan provides for convenient ash removal and prevents excessive corrosion
- Enjoy the convenience and safety of an outdoor stove

Excellent Features . . .
you can always depend on!

For More Information and Free Literature Contact

Manufacturer and Distributor: **Oak Tree Stove Sales**
632 Elysburg Road, Danville PA 17821
Phone: (570) 672-1096 Fax: (570) 672-3221

Lancaster Poured Walls

- Agriculture
- Commercial • Residential

Call for Prices On:

- NRCS approved Manure Storage Pits
- Basements
- Footers
- Retaining Walls
- Foundation Walls
- Concrete Pumping

Customer Satisfaction Is Our Goal

Lancaster Poured Walls, Inc.
2542 Horseshoe Rd. • Lancaster, PA 17601
(717) 656-7370 • Fax (717) 656-7350